

# Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)



## 2005 WHIP in Colorado

*Applications received.....79*

*Contracts approved.....33*

*Funding Approved (\$).....\$661,482*

*Acres under contract.....11,215*

### *The Program*

The **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** is a voluntary program that encourages the creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their properties.

#### *The major objectives of the program are:*

- ✓ To improve habitat for declining or at-risk species to avoid further species from being listed under the **Endangered Species Act**
- ✓ To improve habitat and increase the population of economically-important species
- ✓ To reduce significant agriculture/wildlife conflicts

### *The Partnership*

Landowners interested in enrolling in the WHIP Program enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop wildlife habitat and voluntarily limit future use of the land for a period of time, but retain private ownership.

### *The Assistance*

- ✓ **The WHIP program offers landowners up to 75 percent** cost-share for wildlife habitat improvement projects.
- ✓ NRCS works with the participant to develop a wildlife habitat development plan.
- ✓ NRCS provides cost-share payments to landowners under these **agreements that are usually 5 to 10 years in duration**, depending upon the practices to be installed.
- ✓ NRCS also provides greater cost-share assistance to landowners who enter into **agreements of 15 years or more** for practices on essential plant and animal habitat.

